

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A packaging assembly for packaging a surgical device including first and second needle assemblies at least a distal portion of which having a curved configuration, comprising:
 - an inner package member having a proximal end, a distal end, an upper side a lower side, and first and second recesses therein sized and shaped for receiving therein at least a handle portion of said first and second needle assemblies, said first and second recesses extending inwardly from said distal end along the upper side a distance such that when the first and second needle assemblies are received therein, the distal curved portion thereof extends beyond the distal end of the inner package, and the distal end having a height such that when the first and second needle assemblies are received therein, the curved distal portions thereof do not contact a surface on which the lower side of the inner package member rests;
 - an outer package member having a proximal end, a distal end and a lower inner side, and dimensioned to removably receive therein the inner package member and the surgical device so that the lower side of the inner package member rests on the lower inner side of the outer package member, and having a height sufficient so that when the inner package member and surgical devices are received therein, the outer package element remains substantially clear from contact with the surgical devices;
 - wherein the inner package member and surgical device can be removed from the outer package member and placed so that the lower side of the inner package member rests on a substantially flat surface, and when so removed the surgical device retains its orientation, and the distal portions of the needle assemblies remain clear of said surface.

2. The package assembly according to claim 1, wherein the surgical device further includes a guide member, and the inner package member further comprises a third recess therein dimensioned to removably receive therein the guide member.

5 3. The package assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first recess is positioned on a right side of said inner package member and wherein the first needle assembly is designed for use on a patient's right side, and wherein the second recess is positioned on a left side of said inner package member and wherein the second needle assembly is designed for use on a patient's left side.

10 4. The package assembly according to claim 3, wherein the inner package member further comprises an illustration indicating which needle assembly is for use on which side of the patient's body.

15 5. The package assembly according to claim 1, wherein the height of the inner package member increases from the proximal end to the distal end.

20 6. The package assembly according to claim 1, wherein the surgical device further comprises a mesh to be implanted having a first end coupled to the first needle assembly and a second end coupled to the second needle assembly, wherein the inner package member further comprises a groove extending laterally across the inner package member at a location proximal of the first and second recesses, the groove being dimensioned to receive therein a portion of the mesh such that when the surgical device is removably received within the inner package member, the mesh extends from the first needle assembly, along a first side of the package assembly, within the groove, along a second side of the package assembly, and to the second needle assembly to thereby retain its orientation.

7. The package assembly according to claim 1, wherein the handle portions of the first and second needle assemblies are press fit within the first and second recesses.
- 5 8. The package assembly according to claim 1, wherein the outer package member has an open upper side.
9. The package assembly according to claim 8, wherein the open upper side is sealable with Tyvek®, the Tyvek® being removable to thereby expose the inner package member and surgical device.
- 10 10. A combination surgical assembly and packaging assembly comprising:
 - a surgical assembly for use in placing a urethral sling to treat urinary incontinence, the surgical assembly including a first needle assembly for passing a first end of a sling through a patient's body on a first side of the patient's urethra, and a second needle assembly for passing a second end of the sling through the patient's body on a second side of the patient's urethra, the first and second needle assemblies including a handle portion and an insertion assembly extending therefrom to a distal end, at least a distal portion of the insertion assembly having a curved configuration, and said sling having the first end coupled to the first needle assembly and the second end coupled to the second needle assembly,
 - 20 a packaging assembly including an inner package member removably receivable within an outer package member, the inner package member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having first and second recesses therein extending inwardly from the distal end, the first and second recesses being dimensioned to removably receive therein at least a portion of the first and second needle assemblies, and having a length such that when the first and second needle assemblies are received therein, the curved distal portion thereof extends outwardly

from the distal end of the inner package member, the inner package member further having a height at the distal end such that the curved distal portions of the first and second needle assemblies do not contact a surface on which the inner package member may rest, the outer package member dimensioned to removably receive therein the inner package and surgical assembly such that the surgical assembly is clear of contact with the outer package member.

5 11. The combination according to claim 10, wherein the surgical assembly further comprises a guide member, and the inner package member further 10 comprises a third recess therein dimensioned to removably receive therein the guide member, the guide member recess being positioned laterally across the inner package member at a location proximal of the first and second recesses.

10 12. The combination according to claim 10, wherein the inner package member further comprises one or more finger grips for grasping to remove the inner 15 package member from the outer package member.

15 13. The combination according to claim 10, wherein the height of the inner package member increases from the proximal end to the distal end.

20 14. The package assembly according to claim 10, wherein the inner package member further comprises a groove extending laterally across the inner package member at a location proximal of the first and second recesses, the groove being dimensioned to receive therein a portion of the sling such that when the surgical 25 assembly is removably received within the inner package member, the sling extends from the first needle assembly, along a first side of the package assembly, within the groove, along a second side of the package assembly, and to the second needle assembly to thereby retain its orientation.

15. A package assembly for removably receiving therein a surgical assembly, the package assembly comprising:

an inner package member removably receivable within an outer package
5 member, the inner package member having first and second recesses therein
extending inwardly from a distal end thereof, the first and second recesses being
dimensioned to removably receive therein at least a portion of first and second
surgical instruments designed specifically for use on first and second sides of a
patient's body respectively, the first and second surgical instruments having a
10 curved portion at a distal end that, when the first and second instruments are
removably received within the first and second recesses, extends outwardly from
the distal end of the inner package member, the inner package member having a
height that increases from the proximal end to the distal end, said height being
sufficient at said distal end such that when the inner package member is removed
15 from the outer package member and placed on a substantially flat surface, the
curved portions of the surgical instruments do not contact said surface.

16. The combination according to claim 15, wherein the surgical assembly
further comprises a guide member, and the inner package member further
20 comprises a third recess therein dimensioned to removably receive therein the
guide member.

17. The package assembly according to claim 15, wherein the surgical assembly
further includes a mesh to be implanted, a first end of which is coupled to the first
25 surgical instrument and a second end of which is coupled to the second surgical
instrument, and wherein the inner package member further comprises a groove
extending laterally across the inner package member at a location proximal of the
first and second recesses, the groove being dimensioned to receive therein a
portion of the mesh such that when the surgical assembly is removably received
30 within the inner package member, the mesh extends from the first surgical

instrument, along a first side of the inner package member, within the groove, along a second side of the inner package member, and to the second surgical instrument to thereby retain its orientation.